

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/009,730	STORMBOM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James C Kerveros	2133	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to AMENDMENT filed 4/22/2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-17, now renumbered 1-16.
3.  The drawings filed on 17 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All      b)  Some\*      c)  None      of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

*Lynn J. Lamarre*  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**Response to Amendment**

1. This Office Action is in response to Amendment filed 4/22/2004.

Claims 1-10 and 12-17 are allowed.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the amended Specification, a new Abstract was added as follows:

**Abstract**

A method and apparatus for measuring the water content of a liquid, including a method step for electrically measuring the property of the liquid for one parameter. The properties of the liquid are measured at least substantially simultaneously by another electrical method, where the properties of the liquid are measured using both a relative-value and an absolute-value measurement method.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior arts of record taken alone or in combination fail to teach, anticipate, suggest or render obvious the claimed invention, recited in the independent claim 1 as amended, for a method of measuring water content of a liquid, including electrically measuring

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properties of the liquid ***substantially simultaneously and repeatedly by an absolute-value measurement in order to determine a dielectric coefficient of the liquid, and by a direct relative-value measurement method in order to determine a relative water content of the liquid.***

Further, independent claim 9 as amended, recites an apparatus for measuring water content of a liquid, ***including electrical sensor means for measuring absolute water content of the liquid being sensitive to changes in a dielectric coefficient, electrical sensor means for directly measuring a relative water content of the liquid, and means for controlling both electrical sensor means such that the properties of the liquid are electrically measured substantially simultaneously and repeatedly.***

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James C Kerveros whose telephone number is (703) 305-1081. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decayd can be reached on (703) 305-9595. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

U.S. PATENT OFFICE  
Examiner's Fax: (703) 746-4461  
Email: [james.kerveros@uspto.gov](mailto:james.kerveros@uspto.gov)

Date: 7 June 2004  
Office Action: Allowance

By:   
James C Kerveros  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2133

*Guy J. Lamarre*  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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